

November 13, 2007

the Bulletin

MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

Meet the MCC Presidential Candidates on November 15, 2007

In an effort to provide every employee and student an opportunity to meet the candidates, the following schedule has been created. Please feel free to attend events at either campus. Meeting times and locations are listed below by constituent groups.

Red Mountain Campus

Employees – M107

8:00 – 8:30 Ronald Taylor
8:35 – 9:05 Della Condon
9:10 – 9:40 Shouan Pan
9:45 – 10:15 Jose Aybar
10:20 – 10:50 David Borofsky

Students – W124

8:00 – 8:30 Della Condon
8:35 – 9:05 Shouan Pan
9:10 – 9:40 Jose Aybar
9:45 – 10:15 David Borofsky
10:20 – 10:50 Ronald Taylor

Southern and Dobson Campus

Employees – Separate rooms and times are provided for employees who may wish to approach each candidate with

colleagues who share similar interests. The meetings are not meant to be exclusive, however, and employees are invited to participate during the times that best fit their schedules.

Open to all employees with focus on MAT, PSA, M&O – Kirk Student Center, Kiva room

12:45 – 1:05 Shouan Pan
2:00 – 2:20 Jose Aybar
2:25 – 2:45 David Borofsky
3:40 – 4:00 Ronald Taylor
4:05 – 4:25 Della Condon

Open to all employees with focus on Faculty, Adjunct Faculty – Kirk Student Center, Maricopa room

1:10 – 1:30 Shouan Pan
1:35 – 1:55 Jose Aybar

2:50 – 3:10 David Borofsky
3:15 – 3:35 Ronald Taylor
4:30 – 4:50 Della Condon

Students – Kirk Student Center, Pima room

11:55 – 12:40 Della Condon
1:35 – 2:20 Shouan Pan
2:25 – 3:10 Jose Aybar
3:15 – 4:00 David Borofsky
4:05 – 4:50 Ronald Taylor

Public Forums – Theatre Outback

5:30 – 6:05 Shouan Pan
6:10 – 6:45 Jose Aybar
6:50 – 7:25 David Borofsky
7:30 – 8:05 Ronald Taylor
8:10 – 8:45 Della Condon



Jose Aybar, Ph.D.



David B. Borofsky,
Ed.D.



Della Condon, Ed.D.



Shouan Pan, Ph.D.



Ronald C. Taylor, Ph.D.

Summary of October Campus Q&A's by Acting President Bernie Ronan

Last month I held a series of Campus Q&A's. The purpose of these sessions was two-fold: 1) to provide an update on college projects and initiatives and 2) to answer questions from our College community. I was pleased both by the turnout and by the insightful questions that were posed.

I recognize that for a variety of reasons the timing of the Q&A's simply did not allow for some members of our college community to attend. Following is a condensed version of my opening comments plus a compilation of Q&A's from the three sessions.

Opening Comments

I addressed five areas in my opening comments:

- **Security:** Safety is an important College priority. As you may know, we had two incidents last month at our Southern and Dobson Campus that resulted in a campus lockdown. We have identified a new system of locks that will be installed throughout the Southern and Dobson campus which was built over 40 years ago and has 2,000 doors. We are also creating a security plan for each building on the campus. Moreover, we are developing — with the guidance of the Maricopa District and its new Directory of Safety, Ernie Bakin — a comprehensive security plan for all of MCC's campuses and sites.
- **Enrollment:** This Fall's enrollment was down 3.2 percent. This is the third year of declining enrollment. College leadership has already started looking at ways we can tighten our belt. An Enrollment Task Force is being created to take a comprehensive look at enrollment from the perspectives of recruitment, retention and student services. As the Task Force does its work, we will focus on the students who are here and help them achieve their goals. Enrollment will be one of the most compelling and urgent issues MCC's new president will have to deal with.

- **SIS:** The SIS launch date has been set for February 19, 2008. Testing will occur prior to going live. I am encouraged by the progress. Joni Grover will update the MCC Community on a regular basis.

- **MCC Downtown Campus update:** 1) MCC is considering partnering with other Maricopa colleges to occupy the first floor of the former Mesa Banner hospital in an effort to expand our nursing health care programs. 2) Conversations are underway regarding possibly moving the nursing department to the Banner location. The decision is expected in December. 3) Relocation strategies for moving the Fire Science and Mortuary Science programs from the Williams Campus are being evaluated. 4) We will be as lean as possible in staffing the new Downtown Campus, and the deans who will be working on the Downtown Campus will take on other administrative responsibilities at our other campuses too.

- **Campus construction and improvements:** MCC's Masterplan is five years old and many changes have occurred, the most dramatic of which is inflation. Our College leadership is currently reviewing and updating our masterplan. With the recent purchase of the Harkins Theatre and Fuddrucker's restaurant building, we have engaged an architect to begin the design phase of MCC's performing arts center.

Q & A's

Q. What is MCC's security plan? Are we thinking through all of the security issues or are we simply responding to the incidents that occurred in October?

A. Security is a paramount issue. Spending on security trumps all other issues. I believe campus security must be a District as well as a college issue. The District needs to step in and provide support. You cannot base spending on security on whether a campus has funds or not. That said: things are moving forward rapidly. We are complying with State law and our certified officers will be armed. The District has hired a new security director and other safety measures are under review and are being established.

Q. What is happening with the China Online project?

A. It is not going as well as we had hoped. The fact is our part — building the online platform — has been done. However, we are waiting for our partner in China to complete the development of the curriculum and marketing and recruiting students. In the next 30 days we need to make some key decisions. Right now we are being careful with spending and no new investments are being made. We are also looking at creative ways to use our investment in creating the platform for other instructional applications. (See email sent by Bernine Ronan on 11/9/07 for additional information.)

Q. We have heard about disciplinary actions for some MCC faculty. Given these difficulties, what advice would you give a new faculty member?

A. This is a complex situation. On the one hand, I would tell a new faculty member that this is a great place to work, but it is important to be aware of the new requirements of faculty resulting from the Blue Ribbon panel recommendations. On the other hand, I think it is very important that our faculty who serve as department chairs feel that they have the support of the college and the district as they make the difficult decisions regarding the implementation of these new requirements.

Jim Mancuso, our vice president of academic services, addressed the concern about signing the disclosure forms. He said there should be no concern for probably 98 percent of our faculty who are extremely conscientious.

Q. Our call center is staffed with temporary people in cramped quarters. If our enrollment is declining, isn't this one of the first places to fix?

A. Yes, I've spoken with our leadership and they are reviewing this issue and will be making recommendations. It's a challenge since we don't have a lot of available money. It's important that we make sure we are considering all of the options and trade-offs, but we need to personalize and enhance our call center activities.

Q. Is the Women's Center included in the next cycle of building?

A. As we review our masterplan and remodel buildings at Southern and Dobson, we will take a look at how we can incorporate a Women's Center.

Q. Shouldn't we require students to pay fees on time? Right now we have good students who get bumped.

A. Pattie Cardenas-Adame, MCC's vice president of student affairs, said the College now has a payment plan that guarantees seats. But, she added, the question posed is a good one and is a concern. She asked for suggestions and recommendations.

Q. The Downtown Campus has three administrators and the Red Mountain Campus has one administrator. Would the College consider moving an administrator from the Downtown Campus to Red Mountain?

A. We have discussed this. With the sobering enrollment numbers, we need to look at all positions in a new light.

This is a time of transition for us and we need to be more flexible. I have told our deans of academic and student affairs that we will need to administer programs at all of our sites in a collaborative fashion. A new president will have to look at organization and employment across all campuses.

Q. Can you speak about the lack of communication on campus? Not all departments receive all the information. There's a lot of information and not a lot of answers.

A. This is exactly what this discussion is all about. Communications must be a top priority. I take responsibility for the situation and will continue to work on communications at all levels. Vice President Jim Mancuso added: ask us questions through emails. Often even a two sentence response can squelch a rumor.

Q. How would you describe the culture at MCC?

A. It's troubled. In the last year, a series of incidents happened, some of our own making, some of it happened to us. The culture was additionally impacted by a series of disclosure forms required by the District. I believe some employees may have experienced a feeling of unwarranted guilt. This was not the intent. Communication is especially important now. If you have specific suggestions, I would like to hear them.

Q. Times are tough. I'm curious if the CEC looks at the amount of overhead. Are they considering a hiring freeze?

A. The Chancellor recently formed an advisory group of former CEO's — both educational and corporate — to look at how we are structured. Inevitably, how we are staffed will be under review. The District Office and the colleges are in this together.

Q. Has the College looked at outside funding for the Banner partnership such as the Piper Foundation? What about MCCCDColleges writing collaborative grants?

A. These are all things we will be looking at.

Q. Why isn't MCC putting more effort into improving MCC Online?

A. We clearly need to do more with our online programs. We need to improve our on-line student support services as well.

Q. Is anyone looking at the duplication of support efforts at the Downtown Campus?

A. As Acting Provost, Ron Etter is addressing this issue and is working to have staffing recommendations ready by the end of this calendar year or early 2008.

Q. What is happening with the development of Site 17 (which is one of the sites for the Downtown Campus)?

A. The City of Mesa has identified four developers to develop the entire parcel, including the P-20 Center we plan to build with funding support from Mesa Public Schools and Northern Arizona University. The developer's best and final offers were due at the end of October. MCC will be part of a public/private partnership so we will also be going through negotiations pertaining to Site 17. An RFP has been issued to hire a financial advisor and assist MCC and MCCCCD with this new kind of partnership. I would say Site 17 is moving forward fairly quickly.

Q. Is the MCC Fire Science program moving to Centennial Way?

A. Yes. The plan is for Fire Science to get out of its lease at Country Club and Brown and move to Centennial Way by January 1, 2008. This will save the College lease dollars and will help build "Phase I" of our Downtown Campus.

Q. Why is MCC's enrollment declining?

A. Enrollment is down at seven of our ten colleges. There are a number of reasons. For one, Prop 300 has hurt enrollment because of documentation requirements and the number of students who would be required to pay out-of-state tuition. ASU is also pushing hard to enroll undergraduate students. We need to investigate this decline very thoroughly so we can design strategies to reverse the decline.

Q. Does Prop 300 effect non credit classes?

A. No, it does not.

Apprenticeship Program Trains SRP Workers

A new partnership between Mesa Community College and the Salt River Project offers SRP relay technicians the opportunity to obtain college credit while earning a full-time wage.

Technicians who enter the four-year SRP Apprenticeship Program take 144 hours of classes per year, working full time and taking classes after work. Completion of the program qualifies workers to receive a certified journeyman's card in preparation for work installing, maintaining, and troubleshooting electrical relaying systems at power stations. Technicians can take additional classes to obtain an associate's degree in Electronics Technology from MCC.

Lacy Greer, SRP's apprenticeship administrator, said the program is in response to a growing need for relay technicians.

"With the baby boomers retiring, we are facing a crisis," Greer said. "So we are hiring and training our own technicians to fill the 30 or 40 percent of workers who will be retiring soon."

Upon successful completion of the four-year program, a journeyman relay technician can expect a beginning base salary of about \$75,000 a year.

For more information on the SRP Apprenticeship Program, contact Lacy Greer at (602) 236-2182. For more information about the MCC Electronics Program, contact JD Neglia at (480) 461-7385 or visit www.mccele.com.

Irish biotech professor presents transfer agreement

Professor Mary Booth's recent visit to Mesa Community College provided students and faculty with a chance to interact face-to-face with the professor of microbiology at Athlone Institute of Technology in Ireland.

Mary presented information on MCC's new transfer agreement with AIT at a campus open house. Students who complete the AAS degree in biotechnology at MCC can transfer directly into year three of the BSc degree in biotechnology at Athlone. Students who successfully complete the BSc degree may continue on for a second year to complete a BSc with honours in biotechnology, the equivalent of a U.S. bachelor's degree.

During her visit, Mary said she's seen first-hand the quality of education in the biotechnology program at MCC.

"I was very impressed with the level of skill, which is equivalent to our 300 level courses," Mary said. "The students who plan to move into our program will have no problem assimilating. The standard here is very high."

MCC's Barry Vaughan and Stan Kikkert, who have worked with Booth to arrange the transfer partnership, see this initial agreement as the first step toward many opportunities for students.

"We'd like to see a two-way transfer, in which AIT students can also transfer to MCC for a semester or a year, and then go back to AIT," Barry said. "We'd also like to see faculty transfer back and forth to see what we can learn from each other."



MCC Professor Stan Kikkert welcomes AIT Professor Mary Booth to MCC.

Students who are interested in pursuing the transfer program, which offers possible internships with multinational companies such as Wyeth, Elan, Genmedics and Abbott, can follow a fairly simple process:

1. Obtain information on the transfer program, available on MCC's biotechnology website at <http://mccbiotechnology.net/> or by contacting Stan Kikkert at (480) 461-7862.
2. Fill out the online application, which will be on the AIT website at <http://www.ait.ie/> by the first of June. Openings for the Fall 08 semester are still available.
3. Pay tuition, make travel arrangements and show up ready to learn!

What is Mary's vision for the transfer partnership between MCC and AIT five years from now?

"I'd like to see that the exchange between faculty and students would be commonplace and I hope that the logistics would fall into place seamlessly," Mary said.

World Language Awareness Day

Parlez-vous Francais? Habla Español?

Whether it's French or Spanish, Japanese or Portuguese, acquiring a second language is a skill that expands social and business opportunities and breaks down communication barriers. This month's World Language Awareness Day event at Mesa Community College is just the ticket for anyone interested in checking out MCC's foreign language offerings.

Attendees are issued a passport at the door and receive passport stamps as they visit different country's booths and pick up a few new foreign words along the way. Twelve languages are represented, including Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Navajo, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and American Sign Language.

Steve Budge, the World Languages Department chair at MCC, said learning a second language is beneficial in a number of ways.

"Learning a foreign language opens an individual's mind," Budge said. "When you learn another language, you also learn about the culture of the country, making it easier to communicate with those individuals."

For example, learning that the Japanese prefer not to use the word "no" may make or break a business deal. Attention to nonverbal behaviors such as gestures, touch and personal space is also crucial.

Budge said second language skills are extremely helpful for individuals in educational settings, healthcare professions and technical fields. In an increasingly global economy, language skills and cultural etiquette is a plus for many people.

For MCC student Rosemary Vasquez, learning Spanish is the first step to her goal to obtain an international translation certificate.



Students learn about foreign language opportunities at MCC

"I can get by in Spanish, but I'm trying to become fluent," said Vasquez, who has worked as a hairdresser for 26 years. "I've owned my own salon and I want to go to Mexico and teach others how to run a business."

Studies show that foreign language study can help increase problem-solving skills, memory and self discipline. It may even help the mathematical development of the brain. Knowing multiple words for one object causes the speaker to treat the object as a symbol, making language mathematical.

Budge said he's noticed his students develop other skills as well.

"Many students come to college and their interpersonal skills aren't developed," Budge said. "I've seen shy individuals come out of their shell. Many tell me it helps their ability to speak in public."

Where to go

What:

World Language Awareness Day

When:

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Nov. 14

Where:

MCC at Southern and Dobson, Navajo Room of the Kirk Student Center

Description:

Live performances, food samples, games and door prizes

More:

Call (480) 461-7031 for more information